

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. _____

SUBJECT:

FOR: JUNE 2001 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Jon Heinrich

SUMMARY:

At the Natural Resources Board meeting on December 6, 2000, the Board granted a citizen petition that requested DNR to develop administrative rules to achieve mercury emission reductions for the purpose of addressing the problem of mercury contamination of fish in Wisconsin waters. The Board also directed staff to proceed to develop proposed rules that protect public health and the environment, and are also cost-effective, reasonable, and do not interfere with the ability of electric utilities to supply the state's energy needs.

Department staff have drafted proposed rules under the authority of s. 285.11(9), Wis. Stats., consistent with Board instruction. Components of the proposed rule that may be controversial include the level and timing of mercury reductions, the ceiling on mercury emissions for major sources, the requirement for new sources to offset mercury emissions and the process used to prepare the proposed rule.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize public hearings on proposed rules to limit mercury emissions into the ambient air to reduce atmospheric deposition that contributes to bioaccumulation of mercury in fish in Wisconsin waters.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No <input type="checkbox"/>	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attached
No <input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attached
No <input type="checkbox"/>	Background Memo	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attached

APPROVED:

Bureau Director, Lloyd L. Eagan

Date

Administrator, Jay G. Hochmuth

Date

Secretary, Darrell Bazzell

Date

cc: Linda Jahns - AD/5
Tom Steidl - LC/5
C. Turner - LS/5

L. Eagan - AM/7
R. Park - AM/7
Jon Heinrich - AM/7

STAFF REVIEW - DNR BOARD AGENDA ITEM

REMINDER

Have the following questions been answered under the summary section of this form?

- Why is the rule needed?
- What are the significant changes?
- What are the key issues/controversies?
- What was the last action of the Board?

LIST OF ATTACHED REFERENCE MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR RULE PROPOSALS:

Hearing authorization:

Background memo (if needed)*

Fiscal Estimate

Environmental Assessment (if needed)

Rule

Final adoption:

Background Memo (if needed)*

Response Summary

Fiscal Estimate

Environmental Assessment (if needed)

Rule

- * If all the questions listed in the REMINDER section above can be adequately summarized on the Green Sheet (and a second sheet if needed), the Background Memo may be omitted.

Unit	Reviewer	Date	Comments
Environmental Analysis and Review			
Office of Planning and Analysis			
Legal Services -Program Attorney -Carol Turner			
Other (if applicable)			